

T-42
Ratcliffe Manor
Easton vicinity
Private

1757-1760

Ratcliffe Manor is easily one of the most elaborate and distinctive mid-eighteenth century plantation dwellings erected on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Built on a point of land jutting out into the Tred Avon River, the two-and-a-half story Flemish bond brick house has survived largely intact with approximately 75% of its original mid-eighteenth century woodwork. Documented to have been erected in 1757-1760, the impressive dwelling displays a fine variety of period brickwork and carpentry finishes. The jerkinhead roof is an especially rare survival for houses of this period. Inside, the stair hall, study, parlor, and second floor bedrooms are fitted with fine examples of Georgian woodwork. The parlor, in particular, is a fully paneled room with arched closets to each side of the fireplace. The level of sophisticated craftsmanship represented by this room alone outdistances most contemporary dwellings on the Eastern Shore. Unusual as well is the terraced lawn that descends in three planes from the house to the Tred Avon River.

Hollyday family papers document the construction of Ratcliffe Manor. Corresponding with his brother James, who was residing in London, Henry Hollyday wrote during the fall of 1755 that he had started to gather materials for his building program. In early November of the following year, Henry related:

Your boy, Hector...down here since spring bearing off brick. Will have him make one more kiln early in the spring. Mr. Goldsborough loaned me a boy for that purpose last year. I expect to start building in the spring.

The construction of Ratcliffe Manor spanned several years, evidently finished and occupied by 1762.

Henry Hollyday lived to enjoy his impressive house for the next twenty-seven years, and after his death the property passed to his son Henry with lifetime rights to his wife Anna Maria Robins. She survived her husband by many years and is listed in the 1798 Federal tax assessment as the owner and occupant of Ratcliffe Manor. The improvements at the time were described as being:

Sit on Third Heaven Creek 1 Brick 2 Story Dwelling House 44 by 34, 8 windows 60 by 32, 9 do 50 by 32, 5 do 40 by 24, 800\$; 1 Brick Kitchen, 1 Story 27 by 20, 3 windows 32 by 28, 100\$; 1 Milk House 20 by 12, 24\$, 1 Brick Chimney, 1 Carriage House 22 by 16, 25\$; 1 old Turkey house 24 by 12 .\$. , 1 Meat house 32 by 15, 20\$; 1 Stable 28 by 22, 35\$; 1 overseers house 1 Brick Chimney 20 by 16, 30\$; 1 Quarter 20 by 20, 1 Brick Chimney, 20\$; 1 do 36 by 22, 2 brick chimneys, 20\$; 1 Pigeon house, a hexagon 4 feet a side, 6\$; on a 2 acre lot at 40\$.

Comprising over 1000 acres at the time the Hollyday plantation was improved by a mixture of agricultural buildings including four tobacco houses, a granary, two corn houses, an overseer's house, and a "wood house" probably used to store firewood.

Ratcliffe Manor passed to Henry and Anna Maria's son, Henry Hollyday who his resided on the plantation with his wife Ann Carmichael and family. When he died in 1850 he passed the large plantation to his three sons with stipulation that it be divided between them. The manor house farm went to Richard Carmichael Hollyday, a local attorney, who resided in the family house until his death in 1885. His widow, Marietta Powell Hollyday, married United States senator Charles Gibson, and the couple occupied Ratcliffe Manor through the balance of the nineteenth century. The farm passed from Hollyday family hands after Charles Gibson's death in 1902.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: T-42

MHT Inventory Number: RATCLIFFE MANOR

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

- 1) Historic Period Theme(s):
ARCHITECTURE
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
- 2) Geographic Orientation: EASTERN SHORE
- 3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):
RURAL AGRARIAN INTENSIFICATION
1680-1815
- 4) Resource Type(s):
Single-family plantation dwelling
Terraced lawn

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. T-42

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic RATCLIFFE MANOR

and/or common

2. Location

street & number End of farm lane off MD Route 33 ☐ not for publication

city, town Easton ☒ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Talbot

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Clerk of Court liber

street & number Talbot County Courthouse folio

city, town Easton state MD 21601

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historic Sites Survey

date 1967 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Crownsville state MD 21032

7. Description

Survey No. T-42

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The historic property known as Ratcliffe Manor is a large estate located on a small peninsula formed by the Tred Avon River and Dixon Creek in the vicinity of Easton, Talbot County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story double-pile brick dwelling faces northeast with the front door on axis with the long entrance lane.

The documented construction of Ratcliffe Manor began in 1757 according to surviving Hollyday family papers. Supported on a raised brick foundation defined by a beveled watertable, the five-bay Flemish and English bond brick house is covered by a broad jerkinhead slate roof. Attached to the northwest end is a story-and-a-half brick wing that is extended further westward with an early twentieth century pyramidal roofed kitchen addition intended to appear as a subsidiary outbuilding. The yard between the house and the Tred Avon is terraced in three planes with an old boxwood alley planted on axis with the rear door. Located in the yard west of the house is a board-and-batten frame smokehouse and two other outbuildings joined together in a small guest house complex next to the in-ground pool.

The northeast elevation of the main house is a rigidly symmetrical five-bay elevation with a center entrance and flanking twelve-over-twelve sash windows. The large raised-panel front door is framed by a heavy mortise-and-tenon surround with a cyma curve backband molding. A segmental arch of molded and rubbed brick tops the entrance opening. Sheltering the front door is an early twentieth century single-bay gable roofed porch marked by Tuscan columns and built-in side seats. To each side of the entrance are the sash windows topped by carefully rubbed and gauged jack arches. Stretching across the front of the house between the first and second floor is a three-course Flemish bond beltcourse accented with molded brick on the top and bottom edges. The second floor is marked by five evenly spaced twelve-over-eight sash windows framed by cyma curve backband surrounds. Directly above the row of second floor windows is a heavy modillion block cornice trimming the base of the roof. The modillioned cornice follows a pattern of widely spaced paired blocks. Fixed atop the roof is a series of three gable roof dormers filled with round arch sash windows.

The southeast gable end of the house is three bays across with a side entrance and a window on the first floor. Fixed near the northeast corner is an original door opening that provides access to the study. The door is framed by a heavy mortise-and-tenon surround trimmed with a cyma curve backband. At the opposite end of the wall, near the southeast corner, there is a six-over-six sash window topped by a segmental arch. Positioned under the window is a bulkhead entrance to the cellar. The second floor is marked by six-over-six sash windows topped by segmental arches. Rising through the end wall are a pair of interior end chimneys.

(continued)

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RATCLIFFE MANOR, Description continued
Easton vicinity, Talbot County, Maryland

The southwest (rear) facade is a balanced five-bay elevation with a center entrance flanked by twelve-over-twelve sash windows. Like the front of the house, the rear door is topped by a finely gauged and molded brick arch, and the windows are topped by rubbed and gauged brick jack arches. A row of five twelve-over-eight sash windows illuminate the second floor, and three gabled dormers are filled with arched sash windows.

The northwest side of the main house is partially covered by the story-and-a-half, three-bay by one-room brick wing that formerly served as the kitchen. Rising through the gable end of the main block is a pair of interior end brick chimneys. The Flemish bond brick wing is three bays across with a side entrance that is flanked by two six-over-six sash windows. Marking the roof is a pair of gable roofed six-over-six sash dormers. Rising through the gable end is an interior end brick chimney. During the second quarter of the twentieth century the kitchen exterior and interior were reworked with a shift in exterior door and window openings and a relocation of interior partitions. Around the same time a large glassed-in porch was attached to the south side of the wing, and a new kitchen was incorporated into a pyramidal roofed addition intended to appear as an outbuilding.

The interior of the main house follows a five-room plan with three rooms across the front of the house and two in back overlooking the garden and the river. In front, a squarish stair hall is flanked by a study or library on the south and a service stair hall to the north. The parlor and dining room are two unequal sized rooms that overlook the garden.

The hall retains its original mid-eighteenth century turned baluster, dog-leg walnut stair. Stout newel posts with carved inset panels and a series of turned balusters support a heavy handrail. The stringer is embellished with a semi-circular relief decoration, and the area below the stair is fitted with raised paneling. An arched doorway opening trimmed with fluted pilasters pierces the wall below the second landing to provide access to the cellar stairway and the service passage to the right. The balance of the hall walls are fitted with chair rail and baseboard moldings, and a section of raised-panel wainscoting remains in one corner of the stairhall.

Opening off the hall are three other doorways that are trimmed with cyma curve backband surrounds framing raised eight-panel doors. On the left side of the hall is the study or library, served by a corner fireplace. Tall fluted pilasters flank the fireplace and plastered overmantel. The perimeter of the room features raised-panel wainscoting.

The largest and most elaborately finished room in the house is the parlor, located directly behind the library with windows facing the Tred Avon river. The parlor is fitted with four walls of raised panel woodwork, representing the best in Georgian style craftsmanship to survive in Talbot County. The fireplace wall at the east end of the room is a remarkable display of eighteenth century finishes. Tall fluted pilasters supported on raised-panel plinths flank the fireplace and raised-panel overmantel. A boldly crossetted surround frames the firebox, and two large rectangular panels comprise the overmantel. To the left of the fireplace is a built-in barrel-back cupboard distinguished by shell-carved interior ceiling and a molded semi-circular surround interrupted by a molded keystone. Raised panels fill the wall space above the cupboard. Evidence of the hinge placement of the former doors is visible. To the right of the fireplace is another round arched opening fitted with double-leaf raised panel doors that open into a small closet fitted with shelving. The balance of the room is fully paneled including window reveals and window seats. The large eight-panel back door survives with wrought-iron hinges and a large box lock.

Occupying the southwest corner of the floor plan is the living room, probably the dining room originally. This interior was reworked during the early nineteenth century with Federal style woodwork. Framing the fireplace is a neo-classical mantel with herringbone reeding along the shaft of each pilaster. The five-part frieze has raised blocks marked by oval inset panels trimmed with a beaded inside edge molding. The mantel is composed of a thin layer of moldings. Fixed in the plaster walls is a Federal style chair rail. The only raised panel woodwork of the former eighteenth century interior remains within the window seats.

The small service stair hall, located in the northwest corner of the first floor plan, contains a back stair featuring a Federal style chamfered newel post and narrow stick balusters that support a slight handrail. This room was rearranged somewhat during the early twentieth century with a relocation of the entrance into the kitchen wing.

The second floor is divided in the same manner with four rooms opening off an upstairs hall. The southeast bedroom is fitted with a raised panel fireplace wall with flanked built-in closets. The raised two-panel closet doors are hung on HL hinges. A crossetted surround frames the firebox. The balance of the room is finished with period chair rail and baseboard moldings.

The northeast room, like the study below it, contains a corner fireplace fitted with raised-panel finishes. This room has been converted to a bathroom.

The bedroom over the living room retains a raised-panel fireplace wall as well and a raised-panel finishes within the window seats. Raised six-panel doors permit access between rooms. Another bathroom has been added between the two south bedrooms.

The attic stair is located in the northwest corner of the second

floor plan. A mid eighteenth century turned baluster walnut stair with heavy square newel posts and a heavy handrail rises in two flights to the finished attic.

Finished around 1800, the attic space is divided into three bedrooms that open off a center hall. Six-panel doors remain in place, but otherwise the rooms are plainly finished.

The interior of the story-and-a-half wing was extensively reworked during the early twentieth century with Colonial Revival mantels, doors, and chair rail. A large opening was introduced through the south wall of the kitchen wing for entrance into a glassed-in porch.

8. Significance

Survey No. T-42

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/orApplicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ GLevel of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Ratcliffe Manor is one of the most elaborate and distinctive mid-eighteenth century plantation dwellings erected on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Built on a point of land jutting out into the Tred Avon River, the two-and-a-half story Flemish bond brick house has survived largely undisturbed with approximately 75% of its original mid-eighteenth century woodwork. Documented to have been erected in 1757-1760, the impressive dwelling displays a fine variety of period brickwork and carpentry finishes. The jerkinhead roof is an especially rare survival for a house of this period. Inside, the stair hall, study, parlor, and second floor bedrooms are fitted with fine examples of Georgian woodwork. The parlor, in particular, represents the highest level of interior decoration known for a mid-eighteenth century Eastern Shore house. The fully paneled room has had few changes since the its construction. Expertly crafted pilasters flank the paneled overmantel and arched door closets—one boasting a shell-carved back, flanks the fireplace. The level of sophisticated craftsmanship represented by this room alone outdistances most contemporary dwellings on the Eastern Shore. Some modest modifications were made to the house during the early nineteenth century with the remodeling of the dining room in the Federal style. Well proportioned dormers were added to the roof around the same time. Unusual as well is the terraced lawn that descends in three planes from the house to the Tred Avon River.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Hollyday family papers document the construction of Ratcliffe Manor. Corresponding with his brother James, who was residing in London, Henry Hollyday wrote during the fall of 1755 that he had started to gather materials for his new house. In early November of the following year, Henry related:

Your boy, Hector...down here since spring bearing off brick. Will have him make one more kiln early in the spring. Mr. Goldsborough loaned me a boy for that purpose last year. I expect to start building in the spring.

(continued)

Survey No. T-42

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

Zone Easting Northing

B

The figure shows three bar charts, each representing a different variable: Zone, Easting, and Northing. Each chart has 10 zones on the x-axis. The y-axis represents the number of individuals, with a total of 1000. The bars are black and have varying heights across the zones.

Zone	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7
8	8	8	8
9	9	9	9
10	10	10	10

C

D

E

F

G

[illegible]

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

name/title	Paul B. Touart Architectural Historian
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organization Private Consultant

date 4 / 2 / 1992

street & number P . O . B o x 5

telephone 410-651-1094

city or town Westover

state	MD	21871
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The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HOSPITALITY TRUST
DHCP/DHCL
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
571-206-1000

T-42

RATCLIFFE MANOR, History and Support continued
Easton vicinity, Talbot County, Maryland

The construction of Ratcliffe Manor spanned several years, evidently finished and occupied by 1762.

Henry Hollyday lived to enjoy his impressive house for the next twenty-seven years, and after his death in 1789 the property passed to his son Henry with lifetime rights to his wife Anna Maria Robins. She survived her husband by many years and is listed in the 1798 Federal tax assessment as the owner and occupant of Ratcliffe Manor. The improvements at the time were described as being:

Sit on Third Heaven Creek 1 Brick 2 Story Dwelling House 44 by 34, 8 windows 60 by 32, 9 do 50 by 32, 5 do 40 by 24, 800\$; 1 Brick Kitchen, 1 Story 27 by 20, 3 windows 32 by 28, 100\$; 1 Milk House 20 by 12, 24\$, 1 Brick Chimney, 1 Carriage House 22 by 16, 25\$; 1 old Turkey house 24 by 12 .\$. , 1 Meat house 32 by 15, 20\$; 1 Stable 28 by 22, 35\$; 1 overseers house 1 Brick Chimney 20 by 16, 30\$; 1 Quarter 20 by 20, 1 Brick Chimney, 20\$; 1 do 36 by 22, 2 brick chimneys, 20\$; 1 Pigeon house, a hexagon 4 feet a side, 6\$; on a 2 acre lot at 40\$.

Comprising over 1000 acres at the time the Hollyday plantation was improved by a mixture of agricultural buildings including four tobacco houses, a granary, two corn houses, an overseer's house, and a "wood house" probably used to store firewood.

Ratcliffe Manor passed to Henry and Anna Maria's son, Henry Hollyday who his resided on the plantation with his wife Ann Carmichael and family. When he died in 1850 he passed the large plantation to his three sons with stipulation that it be divided between them. The manor house farm went to Richard Carmichael Hollyday, a local attorney, who resided in the family house until his death in 1885. His widow, Marietta Powell Hollyday, married United States senator Charles Gibson, and the couple occupied Ratcliffe Manor through the balance of the nineteenth century. The farm passed from Hollyday family hands after Charles Gibson's death in 1902.

T-42
Ratcliffe Manor
Easton vicinity, Talbot County, Maryland

1798 Federal Tax Assessment Citation

Mill Hundred

Anna Maria Hollyday

"Sit on Third Heaven Creek 1 Brick 2 Story Dwelling House 44 by 34 8 windows 60 by 32, 9 Do 50 by 32, 5 Do 40 by 24, 800 Dollars, 1 Brick Kitchen 1 Story 27 by 20 3 windows 32 by 28, 100\$, 1 Milk House 20 by 12 24\$, 1 brick chimney, 1 Carriage House 22 by 16 25\$, 1 old Turkey house 24 by 12 .?.\$, 1 meat house 32 by 15 20\$, 1 stable 28 by 22 35\$, 1 overseers house 1 brick chimney 20 by 16 30\$, 1 Quarter 20 by 20 1 Brick Chimney 20\$, 1 Do 36 by 22, 2 brick chimneys 20\$, 1 Pigeon house, a hexagon 4 feet a side 6\$, on a 2 acre lot at 40\$."

Lands Assessment-1798 for Anna Maria Hollyday

"Sit on Third Heaven Creek part of Ratcliffs Manor 248 acres, part of Tilghmans Fortune 445 acres, part of Discovery 60 acres, Turkey Park 329 acres on which stands 1 old tobacco house 40 by 22 25\$, 1 Granary 36 by 20 80\$, 1 old Tobacco House Do 36 by 20 30\$, 1 Overseers House wood 16 by 12, 1 Brick chimney 30\$, 1 Tobacco house 30 by 20 20\$, 1 old wood house 16 by 14 10\$, 1 Corn house 22 by 12 10\$, 1 Corn house 20 by 8 6\$."

Note: "Do" stands for 'ditto' and commas have been added to the quote for clarity.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Radcliffe Manor

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Route 33

CITY, TOWN

Easton

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Talbot

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES RESTRICTED☐ YES UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☒ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. & Mrs. Gerard Smith

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Radcliffe Manor

CITY, TOWN

Easton

☒ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21601

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Talbot County Courthouse

Liber #: 263, 491

Folio #: 148, 293

STREET & NUMBER

Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Easton

STATE

Maryland 21601

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Building Survey

DATE

☒ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

7 DESCRIPTION

T-42

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Radcliffe Manor is located two miles west of Easton on a point of land between the Tred Avon River and Dixon Creek in Talbot County. The house commands a view southwest down the River from a high point overlooking the four levels of box garden. West of the 'falles' is a vegetable garden area adjoining the Creek. Surrounding the house and to the east, adjacent the river, the grounds are laid out like a park.

A unique building in Talbot County, Radcliffe is a substantial two and one-half story early Georgian style brick dwelling with jerkin head roof. On its northwest side is a one and one-half story wing with hyphen and pyramidal-roof kitchen.

The approach facade (N.E.) is five bays long with central entrance. The walls are laid in Flemish bond brickwork above a champhered, all header water table and English bond below. Two windows light the basement and have segmental arches. The principal windows have gauged and rubbed jack arches and 12/12 sash on the first story and 12/8 sash on the second. Between storys is a five brick belt course with upper and lower courses of molded brick. The same type cyma molded brick is seen as the upper course in the projecting segmental arch above the door. An 'A' roof portico supported on round columns, which stand upon a recent sandstone floor, protects the entrance from the elements. On each side are wood benches. Both the portico and benches appear to be at least early 19th century.

Although there are no shutters at present, the first story frames are made to receive shutters and the second story windows were equipped with shutters or blinds at a later date. Adjacent one of the first story windows, etched into a brick, are the initials WN, which may have been one of the craftsmen who constructed the building. Pairs of modillions are unique features of the bold cornice.

With few exceptions, the southwest facade is identical to the entrance facade. Only the outline of the portico can be seen at the entrance. Semicircular sandstone steps give access thereto adjoining the house. The belt course is three bricks and unmolded.

On the southeast side of the dwelling, which is laid in the same bond as the facades, is a door and window with segmental arches on the first story. Three windows of the second story have three-centered arches. All windows on this side have 6/6 sash. Only one window is located on the second story of the northwest side. The remainder is obscured by the one and one-half story wing.

Four tall brick chimneys rise from the ends of the building. Piercing front and back slopes of the slate roof are three Federal style dormer windows which resemble those on the early 19th century dwellings in Easton. In general appearance it is similar to Kenmore, Fredericksburg, Virginia, although the scale and detailing is different. Its floor plan is also similar to Kenmore, but lacks the latter's back passage.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

#7 DESCRIPTION (continued)

Adjoining the main block on its northwest side is a three bay one and one-half story brick structure which was probably built at the same time as the main block. Its original central door was moved to the bay adjoining the main block when the building was remodeled in 1953. Only one of the gauged jack arches remains in place over the west windows. Like the main part of the house, the brickwork in Flemish bond. Two dormers pierce the 'A' roof and a chimney rises from the northwest gable. On the garden side of the wing a sun room was added in 1953 and most of the brickwork altered to accomodate the new functions of the wing. The two dormers on the roof are joined by a shed roof slate covered pod which creates more headroom on the second story.

A one story hyphen and pyramidal roof kitchen were built of brick in 1953 onto the northwest gable of the old kitchen.

The interior, as stated above, has a floor plan similar to Kenmore, with two large rooms overlooking the terraces and two rooms and central stair hall on the approach side.

Raised paneled dado is in place around the hall except adjacent the door. The stair ascends in three flights to the second story, the first landing located at the level of the window sill. Paneled window jambs are original and are used on all major windows of the first floor. Walnut was used on the balustrade. Square newels have carved recessed panels on each exposed surface. There are two bold turned balusters per step. Beneath the second story landing is an elliptical arch with reeded pilasters.

The east room or office has a diagonal fireplace flanked by fluted pilasters upon paneled bases. Above the fireplace is a large plaster panel. A raised panel dado is original to the room as are the paneled window jambs and seats. There is a simple two piece cornice like the hall. All paint has been removed from the woodwork to reveal the color and grain of the native yellow pine.

In the south corner of the plan is the largest and most well appointed room, the drawing room. It is fully paneled to the ceiling on all sides and the fireplace is flanked by fluted pilasters and arched closets. Surrounding the fireplace is marble and double crossette trim. Above the fireplace are two large horizontal panels, the lower being smaller than the upper panel. Like the office pilasters, there are paneled bases, but unlike the latter there is stop fluting at the base of the pilaster which stops abruptly at a base molding. One closet was originally a cabinet, but the doors have been removed and the shell dome and scalloped shelves are completely visible. On the opposite side double doors open into a closet which has a window therein. With the exception of the pilasters, the overall feeling of the room resembles the woodwork originally installed at Readbourne, Queen Anne's County, which was the boyhood home of the builder of Radcliffe.

#7 DESCRIPTION (continuation page 2)

In the west room, now called the Green Room, only the paneled window jambs and seats are original. Apparently this room was remodeled around 1800 with woodwork typical of that period. A mantel is the only feature of the chimney breast. Its pilasters have herringbone reeding and there are recessed oval panels with bead trim in the frieze below a course of reeding and the shelf. The window and door trim resembles original woodwork at Webley which was built around 1805. A chair rail and small cove cornice also date from that period.

A small back hall is located in the north corner of the house. Only the paneled window jamb and seat appear to date from the original period. From the evidence in the basement, it is apparent that this small room originally had a corner fireplace similar to the office. It apparently was removed in the early nineteenth century when a small stair was built to the second story. Apparently, the original door to the kitchen was located adjacent the approach front wall and was not relocated until 1945-53. Now there is a door between the Green Room and the back hall and the original kitchen wing.

In the original kitchen there is now a hall, lavatory, dining room, and sun porch. The original plan of the kitchen can be seen in H.C. Forman's Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland.

On the second story, the floor plan is similar to the first, with the main difference of there being an inner hall and bath above the drawing room. This plan is similar to the second story at Readbourne.

The stair to the attic does not ascend from the main stair hall, but is located in the north corner of the house. For a secondary stair it is large and well detailed, although the detailing appears to be earlier in appearance than the main stair. It is nevertheless made of walnut.

On the river side of the dwelling the two chambers have raised panel walls across the fireplace with two enclosed closets each. A raised panel dado is also seen in the drawing room chamber. Above the office is a generous bath with corner fireplace having raised paneling. Like the two chambers the panels above the fireplace are composed of three tiers with two panels below and a single horizontal panel in each of the other two areas.

Between the stair hall and inner hall is a semicircular arch with reeded pilasters and double doors. This treatment, although similar to the drawing room closets, appears to have been installed around 1800 when the green room was remodeled.

The attic is divided into three rooms and bath. Above the original kitchen wing is a bedroom and bath. Most of the latter work, as well as the back stair between the first and second floors dates from 1953.

#7 DESCRIPTION (continuation page 3)

Radcliffe Manor apparently had only one major remodeling prior to the 1945-53 changes made by the present owners. This occurred around 1800 and included the installation of six dormer windows in the Federal style (they do not appear on the 1798 Federal Direct Tax). Inside, the green room was remodeled and arches added beneath the stair, to the little north room, and at the head of the stair on the second story. About the same time the corner fireplace in the north room was removed and a small stair installed between the first and second stories. The door between the latter room and green room was probably installed at this time.

In 1925, the kitchen wing burned and was subsequently reconstructed. This work, however, was altered when the wing was remodeled in 1953.

In the mid-twentieth century alterations, the c.1800 back stair was remodeled and access to the kitchen wing was altered as mentioned above. The basement entrance was changed from beneath the green room fireplace to the opposite wall beneath the drawing room. Pantries were removed and made into a corridor and lavatory and the kitchen was changed into the dining room.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

T-42

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY: _____)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecturally, Radcliffe Manor is one of the best examples of early Georgian style plantation houses on the Eastern Shore. It is extraordinary in the amount of remaining woodwork of the period (1757) as well as the quality of design and workmanship. The jerkin-head roof is a good survival of an uncommon form on the Eastern Shore and the segmental arches over the front and back doors are unique survivals (those at Warwick Fort Manor are lost, see HABS photos).

The terraces and box garden and the flanking "park" and vegetable garden are significant in landscape design.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

T-42

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Forman, H.C., Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland, privately printed, 1934.

Coffin, L.A., Holden, A.C., Brick Architecture of the Colonial Period in Maryland and Virginia, New York, Dover Publications, Inc, 1970. (original 1919).

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Michael Bourne, Architectural Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

August, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Shaw House, 21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401


The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

#9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (continued)

Federal Direct Tax, 1798, microfilm, Talbot County Free
Library, Easton, Maryland.

<p>1. STATE Maryland COUNTY Essex/Talbot TOWN Easton VICINITY T-42 STREET NO. Route 33</p> <p>ORIGINAL OWNER --- ORIGINAL USE Dwelling PRESENT OWNER Gerard Smith PRESENT USE Dwelling WALL CONSTRUCTION Flemish Bond Brick NO. OF STORIES 2 1/2</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY</p> <p>2. NAME Ratcliffe Manor</p> <p>DATE OR PERIOD c. 1760 STYLE Georgian ARCHITECT BUILDER</p> <p>3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE</p>	
<p>4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION</p> <p>This is a large, impressive, and well-maintained plantation house of Georgian design. It has an A-roof with pronounced jerkin ends. The house is very large - five bays wide and four deep. There is a central door on the front with a segmental arch. All of the windows have flat brick arches. Those on the first storey front and rear are 12/12, those on the second storey are 12/8/. All the windows on the ends of the house are 6/6. There are three pedimented dormers on the roof with 9/6 round-arched windows with radiating muntins. There is a small a-roofed porch of recent vintage over the front door. The house sits on a high basement which has segmentally arched windows. There is a water-table of simple sloping brick. There is a cornice along the front and back roof lines with a crown molding and a row of carved modillions. The garden facade is similar to the front of the house except that the door has no porch. There are huge twin chimneys at each end of the house. To the right of the main house is a one and a half storey three bay wide brick wing with 6/6 windows and an end chimney. It has two 6/6 peaked dormers.</p> <p>The details of mortaring and carving on this house make it an excellent Georgian mansion. It is well-maintained with vast gardens and huge alleys of boxwood over two hundred years old.</p> <p>There is an interesting vertical board and batten ice house on the property.</p>		<p>OPEN TO PUBLIC NO</p>	
<p>5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered Interior Exterior Excellent</p>			
<p>6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)</p> <p></p>		<p>7. PHOTOGRAPH</p>	
<p>8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.</p>		<p>9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER</p> <p>Paul Alan Brinkman</p> <p style="text-align: right;">30 August 1967</p> <p>DATE OF RECORD</p>	



TA

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T-42
Ratcliffe Manor
Easton, Maryland Quadrangle
1942



OXFORD
5761 II NW

Mapped by the Army Map Service
Published for civil use by the Geological Survey

Control by USC&GS

Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods
and by planetable surveys 1942. Aerial photographs taken 1942

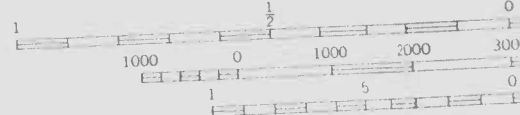
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue

Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from
aerial photographs taken 1974. This information not field checked

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



UTM GRID AND 1974 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



CONTOUR INTERVAL
NATIONAL GEODETIC VE

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS



Ratcliffe Manor T-42

5
2
6



T-42

72%

84



T- 42



Radcliffe Manor - 2nd Floor stair hall - T- 42



M. Bourne

MICHAEL BOURNE

Aug. 1976



Radcliffe Manor, back stair

T-42



MICHAEL BOURNE

Aug 1976



Radcliffe Memo

T-42



MICHAEL BOURNE

Aug 1976



Radcliffe Manor - Drawing Room Chamber

T- 42



M. Bourne

MICHAEL BOURNE

Aug. 1976



Radcliffe Manor, Drawing Room

T-42



M. Bourne

MICHAEL BOURNE

Aug 1976



Radcliffe Manor, stair hall

T-42



M. Bourne MICHAEL BOURNE

Aug 1926